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BOWMAN, JAMES CLOYD. The Promise of Country Life. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

The Promise of Country Life is the attractive title of a book of descriptions and narrations to be used as models in an agricultural course in English.

The work has been carefully planned. The author says in his preface:

The first group of selections has to do with the type of individual who is most at home in the country; the second treats of the pleasures which may be found in solitude; the third shows how various types of men have found enjoyment in a rural environment; the fourth contrasts life in a city with a rural environment; still another describes man's mastery over the crops of the fields and domestic animals. One story depicts the unstinted loyalty of man's best out-of-door friend, the dog; one story pitilessly portrays the meager life of those who are too impoverished of soul to enjoy what the country has to give; finally, a group of stories discusses the various sociological and economic problems of farm life.

Since, however, the selections have been chosen from such well-known writers as John Burroughs, Hamlin Garland, James Lane Allen, Corra Harris, Guy de Maupassant, and Lyoff N. Tolstoi, the order in which the selections are placed is of slight importance.

The Introduction includes an analysis of method in description, simple narrative without plot, and short story, which most high-school teachers will find very suggestive. Although the text is evidently intended for college use, the selections are not too difficult for advanced high-school students. In schools where library facilities are limited, the book will furnish the reader of American literature a wide range of modern American writers.

LONG, WILLIAM J. Outlines of English and American Literature. Boston: Ginn & Co.

The text is a single-volume combination of English and American literature. The new volume retains the literary excellence of the earlier editions. It has been made compact, not by compressing the history of the writers mentioned in the two volumes into smaller space, but by omitting minor writers; for instance, the period in American history preceding the American Revolution is included in ten pages. In the conclusion of the volume, however, twenty pages have been reserved for writers since 1876.

PAYNE, LEONIDAS WARREN, JR. American Literary Readings. Chicago: Rand McNally & Co.

Professor Payne, of the University of Texas, has prepared an admirable anthology of selections from leading American authors. He shows excellent judgment in ignoring all writers before Washington Irving. Moreover, the editor has had in mind sound practice in the teaching of literature to high-school classes. Mere bibliographical details are reduced to a nimimum, a